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General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 20 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United States of America and Yugoslavia: draft resolution

Economic assistance to the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/96 G of 15 December 1999,

Recalling also the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, adopted in Cologne, Germany, on 10 June 1999, and endorsed at the Sarajevo Summit of 30 July 1999, and emphasizing the crucial importance of its implementation,

Stressing the importance of the regional cooperation initiatives, assistance arrangements and organizations, such as the Process of Stability and Good-Neighbourliness in South-East Europe (Royaumont Initiative), the South-East European Cooperative Initiative, the South-East Cooperation Process, the Central European Initiative, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Danube Commission,

Noting the leading role played by the high-level steering group for South-Eastern Europe under the joint chairmanship of the European Commission and the World Bank in guiding the donor coordination process for the economic reconstruction, stabilization, reform and development of the region, in close cooperation with the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe,

Mindful of the positive results of the Regional Funding Conference for South-Eastern Europe organized by the European Commission and the World Bank, held in Brussels on 29 and 30 March 2000, and of the progress achieved in mobilizing and coordinating support of the donor community and the international financial institutions for reconstruction and development efforts in South-Eastern Europe,

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Welcoming the democratic changes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and their positive effects on the peace, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on economic assistance to the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans and the conclusions contained therein,[1]

1. *Expresses concern* at the persistence of special economic problems confronting the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans, in particular their impact on regional trade and economic relations and on the navigation along the Danube and on the Adriatic Sea;

2. *Welcomes* the support already provided by the international community, in particular by the European Union and other major donors, to the affected States to assist them in coping with their special economic problems during the transition period following the developments in the Balkans, as well as in the longer-term process of economic recovery, structural adjustment and development in the region;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the effective implementation of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the objective of which is to strengthen countries in South-Eastern Europe in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity, in order to achieve stability in the whole region, and welcomes its follow-up activities, aimed, inter alia, at economic reconstruction, development and cooperation, including economic cooperation in the region and between the region and the rest of Europe;

4. *Invites* all States and the relevant international organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, in particular the international financial institutions, to continue to take into account the special needs and situations of the affected States in providing support and assistance to their efforts for economic recovery, structural adjustment and development;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of a well-coordinated and timely donor response to the external funding requirements of the process for economic reconstruction, stabilization, reform and development in the Balkans, as well as financial support to other affected countries of Eastern Europe;

6. *Encourages* the affected States of the region to continue and enhance the process of multilateral regional cooperation in the fields of transport and infrastructure development, including the resumption of navigation on the Danube, as well as to foster conditions favourable to trade, investment and private sector development in all the countries of the region;

7. *Invites* the relevant international organizations to take appropriate steps, consistent with the principle of efficient and effective procurement and with the agreed measures for procurement reform, in order to broaden access for interested local and regional vendors and to facilitate their participation in the international assistance efforts for reconstruction, recovery and development of the region;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[1] A/55/620.